

REPUBLICANS WILL NOT USE TAXES, USER FEES, OR GIMMICKS FOR FUNDING AMERICANS' PRIORITIES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks Democrats have been attacking our appropriations bills by suggesting that they do not spend enough. They do not like our budget. However, the only thing they have to stand on is the President's budget and the numerous taxes and user fees included in it.

This week, we voted on the President's alternative to raise taxes and fees \$240 over the next 10 years. What was in it? Just a partial list of his so-called offsets and new taxes, tobacco tax, increase the aviation fees, Superfund taxes, increase the agriculture fees, commerce fees, FDA fees, Coast Guard fees, DOT fees, EPA pesticide registration fees, FCC, and Social Security fees, and the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, we will pass spending bills that fund priorities of the American people. We will not spend the Social Security surplus but we will not do it by heaping on new user fees, gimmicks, and taxes for every turn of an American's life.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to AmeriCorps on its fifth anniversary.

AmeriCorps is a program that gives volunteers the chance to grow while giving millions of others a helping hand. Thanks to AmeriCorps, 4 million children have been tutored, 10,000 homes have been built, 600,000 seniors have been helped today live independently, and disaster survivors have been assisted. That is what I call a successful program.

Recently, some of my colleagues wanted to cut AmeriCorps and they want the funding to be killed. Thankfully they changed their mind. Now over the next 5 years hundreds of thousands of Americans can look forward to richer lives either through the opportunity to help others or through the good fortune of being helped.

I say keep up the good work, AmeriCorps. Happy anniversary. America thanks you.

□ 1030

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, for those people that might be watching this session arguing between that side and this side, who think it is more important to save Social Security, really the news is so good, because if both sides can work together to make sure the President does not raid the Social Security trust fund, we are going to be so much better off.

For 40 years, we have been spending the Social Security surplus for other government programs. When we did the "Contract with America," we said we were going to balance the budget. We set the target date for 2002. Actually we accomplished it this past year that ended October 1. We balanced the budget without using the Social Security trust fund. So now that we have got both sides working together, let us do that. Let us not start criticizing that we are not spending enough money in these appropriation bills because what that means is you are spending the Social Security surplus. It is tough for politicians in Washington not to spend more money to do more good things for the people in this country simply because they are more apt to get re-elected when they spend that money.

Let us be frugal. Let us run our pocketbook and our checking account like everybody else.

ON H.R. 2, TITLE I REAUTHORIZATION

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today this body will be continuing consideration of H.R. 2, the Student Results Act which reauthorizes ESEA, or Title I. Title I is a vital program for elementary and secondary schools in the territories as well as the States. My district, the Virgin Islands, relies heavily on the resources it provides to educate our children.

We in this body have a responsibility to ensure that this important measure reaches all Americans, and this includes women, people of color, the poor and those for whom English is not their first language. The bill as it exists contains much of the resources and programs our schools need, but we must give the American people the best Title I we can. That means reauthorizing the Women's Education Equity Act, keeping the poverty threshold at 50 percent, including adequate provisions for bilingual education, and saying "no" to vouchers.

Our future demands full support of our public school system as the best insurance for a well-educated citizenry. With the passage of the Mink-Woolsey-Sanchez-Morella amendment, we have begun to do that. Young girls and

women across America are grateful to our colleagues for this amendment. Now let us pass the Payne amendment, reject the Arme amendment and help our bilingual students.

REPUBLICANS ARE NOT SPENDING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today we are listening to political debates and discussions on the floor of the House. I well understand what is occurring here today. But the truth should not be held hostage. The fact of the matter is Republicans for years now have been insisting on us not spending Social Security. As a member of the Committee on Rules, we are under instructions by DICK ARMEY, the majority leader, that there can be no spending bill that comes on the floor of the House of Representatives that would spend Social Security for next year.

In fact, as we now see in yesterday's paper, the chief of staff for the White House says, "The Republicans' key goal is not to spend the Social Security surplus." For the first time in 39 years, this year not one penny of Social Security was used to fund the government operations. I am proud of what Republicans are doing, and the American public can know that the truth of the matter is that we will make sure from this day forward with the new budget that not one penny of Social Security will be spent.

VOTE NO ON TITLE I REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we talk about the importance of education; yet when it comes to the education bill, we should all be disappointed in terms of where we are at with that particular bill. We talk about the global economy and yet when we look in terms of responding to the global economy, we should be there in terms of trying to teach dual language instruction, we should be there to try to improve multilingual education, we should be there to try to reinforce bilingual education.

What are we doing? We are doing just the opposite. We are not addressing the needs that we need to address. As we look at the existing piece of legislation, especially Title I, there is some specific language in Title I. It is only addressed to limited English proficiency youngsters. Every other child, if you are an Anglo, if you are black, you do not have to jump through that hoop. The cost incurred is that if you are limited English proficiency, you